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March 5, 1986

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Dr. Dan D. Raviv, Ph.D.  
c/o Dan Raviv Associates, Inc.  
5 Central Avenue  
West Orange, New Jersey 07052

RE: Matco Chemical Corporation

MAR 11 1986

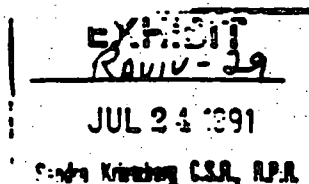
Dear Dan:

As I mentioned to you yesterday while we were inspecting the site with George Napack, I may on occasion take the liberty of writing in order to set down for you certain ideas which have occurred regarding Matco. In this way I would like to keep you current on my thinking and request that you provide your comments as you deem appropriate.

A number of items arose during our conference with George Napack and on balance, and in one form or another, they all relate to the response which Matco is developing not only to the DEP, but also with regard to the Nuodex and Grace situations. In no particular order these items include:

(1) It is necessary to review the entirety of the draft NJPDES permit and to provide a response to its technical requirements. Both as to the Department's siting of wells, number of wells, remedial programs, etc., and to its far-reaching requirements pertaining to the lagoons, closed ponds, swale, etc., Matco must present a reply. I would greatly appreciate it if you would evaluate the permit and provide me with your response to all of these various issues so that I can merge that with our legal response and, thereafter, provide same to the Department.

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(2) As we discussed, it is necessary to also keep in the forefront the fact that the situation with Nuodex goes hand-in-glove with Matco's exchanges with the DEP. It was very helpful yesterday when you indicated that the water quality data which has been developed shows essentially de minimus contaminates on the Matco site, but substantial concentrations of hazardous chemicals on the Nuodex property. If I correctly understood the implication, this would mean that those chemicals are showing up in the Nuodex wells due to some geological and hydrological events and circumstances at Nuodex, rather than due to some fault of Matco.

(3) This may have been confirmed by our tour of the site in that it appeared that -- although regional groundwater flow is towards Nuodex -- there is localized topography from the Nuodex plant and ponds back towards its wells. It also is significant that the stream which crosses the highway (from Matco towards Nuodex) runs generally clear on Matco's side of the road but becomes blackened (with apparent sewage) on the Nuodex side of the property, and when one of the Nuodex wells (which was unlocked) was opened, on the Nuodex side of the road, the water level was high and the sewage smell was strong.

The implication seems to be that the groundwater on the Nuodex property is in continuity with the surface water, and that contamination is showing up from sources other than the Matco site.

This also may be confirmed by the fact that the Nuodex facility seems to have been built in a marshy area which provides for poor drainage. Thus materials in the ground water on that site may very well remain there without draining towards the river, and it is that contamination which is showing up in the Nuodex wells. Thus Matco's facilities are irrelevant to the conditions at the Nuodex property.

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(4) As a separate item please also be reminded that wells on the Hatco property seem to be showing a tar substance. The relationship between this substance and the asphalt company needs to be investigated. It may be that this is due to isolated dumping rather than to a flow of groundwater from the asphalt company towards Hatco, (in fact you have indicated that such a flow is unlikely given topography). In any event it is necessary to evaluate who had access to this section of the Hatco property (and when) for illegal dumping.

(5) As we discussed, the response to the DEP may vary depending on the requirements as related to lagoons, the closed ponds and/or the swale. To reiterate I would very much appreciate it if you would evaluate the technical requirements in the draft permit for each of these three different segments of the permit and provide me with your comments.

Please call me at your convenience if you have any questions.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

EDELSTEIN & BERNSTEIN

BY: Nathan H. Edelstein  
NATHAN H. EDELSTEIN

NME:bs

cc: Mr. George Chryss  
Mr. George Napack

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